



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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February 21, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Lifeline and Link Up
CC Docket No. 96-45; WC Docket 03-109

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing today to show my support for the efforts of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Lifeline and Link Up. The Lifeline program provides an important service to low-income individuals across the country. I believe that it is important to minimize fraud, waste and abuse in the program so that deserving and qualified families will still have access to this program, and I applaud the Board for doing so.

With our nation struggling to overcome unemployment and other economic challenges, the Lifeline program is more necessary than ever. Reports show that access to phone service leads to greater chances of employment. Additionally, Kentuckians should be able to access these services in the case of an emergency.

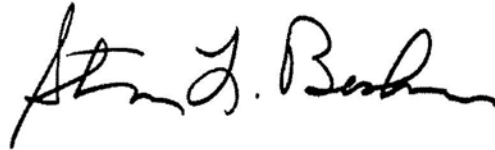
I agree with the Board's recommendations that the Commission put together a plan for standardization on areas that would apply to all Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) that would help eliminate waste and abuse in this program. In doing so, however, I want to make sure that low-income support of the fund remains free and accessible to those who qualify.

Low-income support is cyclical, and this should be acknowledged. As you may be aware, unemployment has increased in my state since 2008 and those eligible for SNAP assistance has as well. In these challenging economic times, programs such as Lifeline have a real and tangible impact on the lives of my constituents, and I believe the Commission recognizes this, too. As this recession begins to regress, the numbers of those eligible for Lifeline should as well.

CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
February 21, 2011
Page 2

The FCC should also not mandate monthly subscriber fees for Lifeline users. The best approach to curtailing fraud and abuse is establishment of an eligibility database. Thank you for seriously considering the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations. I appreciate your considering my views and concerns on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven L. Beshear". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Beshear" clearly legible.

Steven L. Beshear